

Innes Community Council

Interim summary of Invited Meeting held in the Fochabers Institute on Tuesday 20th January 2026 to assess Community Group opinions regarding the Spey Viaduct.

The Christie Room was almost full, the Meeting was Chaired by Roger Knight (Spey River Catchment) and the attendees represented a fair mix of community interests from both sides of the River Spey.

The Chair explained that the purpose was not find cause, or fault, but rather to gather views regarding the situation , and in what direction people would like to see, moving forward.

(I have taken several main questions, and their numerical order reflects the strength of response. Where there is ### indicates unanimous response. Side questions will be fully detailed in the formal Minute.)

1. Should the crossing be restored, either as was or 'replicated'?
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2. Is it possible to construct a temporary crossing until a more permanent plan has been determined? ### And will it be possible have a workable timeline for such a temporary crossing, bearing in mind that business's on both sides of the River will suffer severe footfall loss.
3. Does the Moray Council feel that they have made sufficient provision for safety of the existing structure, in regard to pedestrians, cyclists (and adventurers).###
4. Is there sufficient signage a) for safety b) for re-direction, c) alternative facilities? ###

5. Has the Moray Council made any provision concerning the safety of the remaining structure ? (Concern over the amount of debris in the river weakening the remaining piers.)###
6. Given the status of the collapsed section, is The Moray Council going to provide a safe access for emergency services in the short term ?
7. Will The Moray Council make serious consideration into the probable much increased use of the Speybay and Garmouth Roads by cyclists and pedestrians . EG Temporary pathways.###
8. How far ranging will The Moray Council look for funding?
9. (Sustrans?)The people of Moray cannot be expected to pay for the repairs.
10. The Group would like to see the formation of a panel of stakeholders for the receiving and dissemination of information, and sincerely hope that The Moray Council will operate with them in openness and transparency.
11. Because of the location, does the Moray Council foresee any difficulties in working with Nature Scotland, Landowners, Riparian owners, SEPA that might cause unnecessary delays to even a temporary reinstatement.
12. It is assumed that The Moray Council will consider studying the river, and both banks to the south of the Viaduct, in order to provide protection against a similar occurrence.

D G Mackay

Secretary 20.01.26